51318/RJP/B600

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for decoding an algebraic-coded message, comprising the steps of:
 - a. determining a discrepancy indicator;
- b. determining an error locator polynomial according to an algorithm from a selected class of decoding algorithms wherein an uncorrectable message is detected; and
- c. producing a perceptible indication of the detected uncorrectable message.

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